

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-51 and 54. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, [[said]] the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of [[said]] the information;
- (b) defining a physical structure of [[said]] the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce [[said]] the information;
- (c) defining a plurality of document links associated with [[said]] the physical structure and corresponding to [[said]] the referential links;
- (d) assigning a user interpretable functional link to each [[said]] document link, wherein each functional link forms a traversable physical path in the document between components of the information; and
- (e) optimizing arranging a number of said user interpretable the functional links by assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to at least an individual one of [[said]] the functional links.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein [[said]]

the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and [[said]] the functional links comprise at least one indicium printable onto [[said]] a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of [[said]] the document links to form a single said indicia the indicium associated with a component on [[said]] the page.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  
[[said]] the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and [[said]] the functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of [[said]] the pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to a single one of [[said]] the at least one cut-out [[tabs]] tab.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method according to claim 3, wherein at least one [[said]] cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated with plural ones of [[said]] the pages.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of retaining structure definitions of [[said]] the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to claim 4 or 5, further comprising the step of defining a presentational style to [[said]] the document and applying

[[said]] the presentational style to [[said]] the functional links to distinguish [[said]] the functional links from [[said]] the components.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of retaining [[said]] the presentational style of [[said]] the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with [[said]] the presentational style.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into [[said]] the document.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein [[said]] the content specific document links are user defined.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with ~~said optimized the~~ arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of [[said]] the document.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the predetermined stylistic layout implements [[the]] a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of ~~said optimized the~~ arranged functional links.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises grouping [[said]] the document links according to predetermined criteria associated with [[said]] the document links, each [[said]] group having associated therewith at least one corresponding optimized arranged functional link.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 or 12, wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ea) importing [[said]] the information into [[said]] the physical structure to form [[said]] the document; and
- (eb) applying said optimized the arranged links to [[said]] the document.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of [[said]] the functional links comprises corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of [[said]] the document, and step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ec) identifying those of [[said]] the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of [[said]] the document;
- (ed) for each [[said]] common page, grouping together corresponding document links identified at step (ec); and
- (ee) providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each [[said]] group of document links.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method according to claim 14, wherein  
[[step]] substep (ed) further comprises limiting each ~~of said groups to plural group of~~ document  
links to those that either (i) end on different ones of [[said]] the pages or (ii) start on different  
ones of [[said]] the pages, ~~as the case may be~~, and [[step]] substep (ee) comprises providing a set  
of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of [[said]] the set corresponding  
corresponds to one [[said]] document link of [[the]] a corresponding [[said]] group.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein  
[[said]] the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding  
[[said]] components of the information.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An authoring system for ~~the creation of~~  
creating a linear document having that includes non-linear referential links, said system  
including:

means for specifying a linear document structure and [[the]] hyperlinks of a  
hypermedia source document;

means for associating [[said]] the hyperlinks with physical links able to be  
formed in pages of [[said]] the linear document;

means for modelling each [[said]] physical link using a one-dimensional vector  
reproducible as a traversable physical path in the linear document; and

means for optimizing arranging an assignment of [[said]] the physical links to

one or more of [[said]] the hyperlinks.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An authoring system for ~~the creation of~~  
creating a linear document having that includes non-linear referential links, said system  
comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which  
a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating [[said]] the hyperlinks with physical links able to be  
formed in pages of [[said]] the linear document;

means for modelling each [[said]] physical link using a one-dimensional vector  
reproducible as a traversable physical path in the linear document; and

means for optimizing arranging an assignment of [[said]] the physical links to  
one or more of [[said]] the hyperlinks.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A system for ~~the creation of~~creating a linear  
document having that includes non-linear referential links, said system comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which  
a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating [[said]] the hyperlinks with physical links able to be  
formed in pages of [[said]] the linear document;

means for modelling each [[said]] physical link using a one-dimensional vector

reproducible as a traversable physical path in the linear document;

means for optimizing arranging an assignment of [[said]] the physical links to one or more of [[said]] the hyperlinks;

means for applying [[said]] the linear document structure and said optimized the arranged physical links to [[said]] the hypermedia document to produce [[said]] the linear document; and

means for reproducing [[said]] the linear document.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program product incorporating embodying a computer-readable medium incorporating a series of instructions program for implementing a method for creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said instructions implementing wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, [[said]] the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of [[said]] the information;
- (b) defining a physical structure of [[said]] the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce [[said]] the information;
- (c) defining a plurality of document links associated with [[said]] the physical structure and corresponding to [[said]] the referential links;
- (d) assigning a user interpretable functional link to each [[said]] document link, wherein each functional link forms a traversable physical path in the document between

components of the information; and

(e) ~~optimizing arranging~~ a number of ~~said user interpretable~~ the functional links by assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to at least an individual one of [[said]] the functional links.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein [[said]] the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and [[said]] the functional links comprise at least one indicia indicium printable onto [[said]] a single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of [[said]] the document links to form a single said indicia indicium associated with a component on [[said]] the page.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein [[said]] the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and [[said]] the functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of [[said]] the pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to a single one of [[said]] the at least one cut-out [[tabs]] tab.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 22, wherein at least one [[said]] cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated with plural ones of [[said]] the pages.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the method further comprising comprises the step of retaining structure definitions of [[said]] the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the method further comprising comprises the step of defining a presentational style to [[said]] the document and applying [[said]] the presentational style to [[said]] the functional links to distinguish [[said]] the functional links from [[said]] the components.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the method further comprising comprises the step of retaining [[said]] the presentational style of [[said]] the document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with [[said]] the presentational style.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprising comprises the step of defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into [[said]] the document.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 27, wherein [[said]] the content specific document links are user defined.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with ~~said optimized~~ the arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of [[said]] the document.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 29, wherein [[said]] the predetermined stylistic layout implements [[the]] a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of ~~said optimized~~ the arranged functional links.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein step (e) comprises grouping [[said]] the document links according to predetermined criteria associated with [[said]] the document links, each [[said]] group having associated therewith at least one corresponding ~~optimized~~ arranged functional link.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ea) importing [[said]] the information into [[said]] the physical structure to form [[said]] the document; and
- (eb) applying ~~said optimized~~ the arranged links to [[said]] the document.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A computer program product according to

claim 20, wherein a plurality of [[said]] the functional links comprises corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of [[said]] the document, and step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ec) identifying those of [[said]] the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of [[said]] the document;
- (ed) for each [[said]] common page, grouping together corresponding document links identified at step (ec); and
- (ee) providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each [[said]] group of document links.

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Claim 34 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 33, wherein step (ed) further comprises limiting each ~~of said groups to plural group of~~ document links to those that either (i) end on different ones of [[said]] the pages or (ii) start on different ones of [[said]] the pages, ~~as the case may be~~; and step (ee) comprises providing a set of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of [[said]] the set ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to one [[said]] document link of [[the]] a corresponding [[said]] group.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A computer program product according to claim 34, wherein [[said]] the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding [[said]] components of the information.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A system for creating a document suitable for

hard copy reproduction, said system comprising:

first means for receiving information from at least one electronic source document, [[said]] the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of [[said]] the information;

second means for defining a physical structure of [[said]] the document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce [[said]] the information;

third means for defining a plurality of document links associated with [[said]] the physical structure and corresponding to [[said]] the referential links;

fourth means for assigning a user interpretable functional link to each [[said]] document link, wherein each functional link forms a traversable physical path in the document between components of the information; and

fifth means for optimizing arranging a number of said user interpretable the functional links by assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to at least an individual one of [[said]] the functional links.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, wherein  
[[said]] the physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and [[said]] the functional links comprise at least one indicia indicium printable onto [[said]] a single page, and  
said fifth means comprises means for merging plural ones of [[said]] the document links to form a single  
said indicia indicium associated with a component on [[said]] the page.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, wherein  
[[said]] the physical structure comprises plural printable pages and [[said]] the functional links  
comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of [[said]] the pages, and said fifth means  
comprises means for assigning plural ones of [[said]] the document links to a single one of  
[[said]] the at least one cut-out [[tabs]] tab.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A system according to claim 38, wherein at  
least one [[said]] cut-out tab is formed as part of a nest of correspondingly located tabs associated  
with plural ones of [[said]] the pages.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A system according to claim 39, further  
comprising means for retaining structure definitions of [[said]] the document in a template for  
formatting at least one subsequent document in a corresponding fashion.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A system according to claim 39, further  
comprising means for defining a presentational style to [[said]] the document and for applying  
[[said]] the presentational style to [[said]] the functional links to distinguish [[said]] the  
functional links from [[said]] the components.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A system according to claim 41, further  
comprising means for retaining [[said]] the presentational style of [[said]] the document in a

template for formatting at least one subsequent document with [[said]] the presentational style.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, further comprising means for defining content specific document links and incorporating corresponding functional links into [[said]] the document.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A system according to claim 43, wherein [[said]] the content specific document links are user defined.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, further comprising means for associating a predetermined stylistic layout with ~~said optimized the~~ arranged functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of [[said]] the document.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A system according to claim 45, wherein [[said]] the predetermined stylistic layout implements [[the]] a formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of ~~said optimized the arranged~~ functional links.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A system according to claim 46, wherein said fifth means comprises means for grouping [[said]] the document links according to predetermined criteria associated with [[said]] the document links, each [[said]] group having associated therewith at least one corresponding optimized arranged functional link.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, wherein said fifth means comprises:

means for importing [[said]] the information into [[said]] the physical structure to form [[said]] the document; and

means for applying said optimized the arranged links to [[said]] the document.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A system according to claim 36, wherein a plurality of [[said]] the functional links comprises corresponding cut-out tabs linking different pages of [[said]] the document, and said fifth means comprising comprises:

means for identifying those of [[said]] the document links that either (i) start or (ii) end on respective common pages of [[said]] the document;

means for grouping together, for each [[said]] common page, corresponding document links identified by the means for identifying; and

means for providing a cut-out tab functional link corresponding to each [[said]] group of document links.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A system according to claim 49, wherein further comprising means for limiting each ~~of said groups to plural group of~~ document links to those that either (i) end on different ones of [[said]] the pages or (ii) start on different ones of [[said]] the pages, ~~as the case may be~~; and means for providing a set of nested cut-out tab functional links, such that each member of [[said]] the set corresponding corresponds to one

[[said]] document link of [[the]] a corresponding [[said]] group.

Claim 51 (currently amended): A system according to claim 50, wherein  
[[said]] the groups are formed based upon a determinable relationship between corresponding  
[[said]] components of the information.

  
Claims 52 and 53 (canceled)

Claim 54 (currently amended): A hard copy document comprising:  
information received from at least one electronic source document, [[said]] the  
source document including a plurality of non-linear referential links establishing corresponding  
referential paths between components of [[said]] the information; and  
a number of user interpretable functional link with a part thereof corresponding  
to plural ones of the non-linear referential links, wherein the user interpretable functional link is  
part of a plurality of user interpretable functional links formed in said hard [[coy]] copy  
document and providing provides user interpretable functional traversable physical paths  
spanning plural pages of said hard copy document between corresponding components of [[said]]  
the information, whereby at least one of said functional links has a part that corresponds to  
plural ones of said non-linear referential links.